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CIA Accused of Asking Students to Make Report

Michael P. Wood, who started the expose of Central Intelligence Agency involvement in the National Student Assn., cited examples Wednesday of how he says the CIA "involved students in espionage."

He classified as "espionage":

"Covert—CIA encouragement for establishing a N.S.A. Algerian scholarship program for Algerian refugee students in 1958 when France was battling Algerian nationalists.

—CIA pressure on Frederick Berger, a former N.S.A. Latin American representative, to provide a full dossier on 15 student leaders in the Dominican Republic and a full scale analysis of the relation between university and revolutionary politics there.

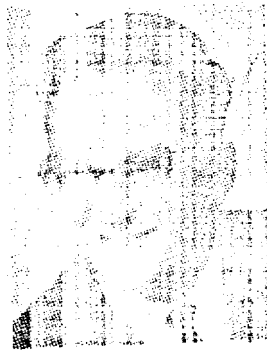
—CIA pressure on all N.S.A. overseas representatives to write full reports on "who says what" at international meetings and to describe foreign student leaders in detail."

"They (the State Department) are trying to present the image that the CIA only subsidized but did not influence. That's a lie," Wood said in a telephone interview.

"NSA students didn't wear cloaks and they didn't carry daggers but they spied," he said.

In addition, he said, "The CIA influenced NSA overseas programs -- and even influenced the election of NSA officers."

He said a forthcoming article in Rampart magazine will "go into detail on the cloak and dagger espionage aspects of CIA involvement in the



MICHAEL WOOD
"... CIA pressure"

NSA and other organizations."

"This month's article was conservative," he said.

An 800-word article detailing CIA's financial involvement in the NSA reached newstands across the country Wednesday after being previewed in headlines for a week.

Wood said he criticized "not the support, but the secretiveness of CIA support for the NSA Algerian scholarship program."

Two students connected with the NSA charged that election of NSA officers were "subtly and indirectly controlled by the Central Intelligence Agency."

Richard Stearns, 22, NSA intern and the vice president, and Walton Senterfitt, 22, NSA member, said Wednesday in separate telephone interviews that:

—Some checks were something on candidates before they were elected to office.

Possible nominees would be

"scrutinized" at CIA-supported and directed seminars.

—NSA officers who were in on the link with the CIA would discuss possible candidates ahead of time with the agency.

Ann Watkins, a NSA staff member in Washington, said, "The government was involved in discussions about the scholarship program in 1958, but the State Department did not openly fund it until 1962."

"Until then," she said, "it was supported by a certain R. E. Smith in Texas. It has not yet been proved whether or not Smith was a front for the CIA."

She said the program was set up "to help Algerian refugee students get an education who had nowhere else to go."

Wood attacked a three-man committee appointed last week to probe CIA involvement in American educational organizations.

"It's like assigning a cancer to perform an operation on itself," he said.

He charged that the committee was appointed "to set up a smoke screen of liberal rhetoric devised to prevent to prevent action on the matter and to minimize the damage done."

President Johnson ordered that the CIA situation be investigated by Undersecretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach; John Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Richard Helms, director of the CIA.

It is ridiculous to expect that a CIA director and two administration aides will do an impartial job of assessing their own problems," Wood charged.

"All they'll do will be to come up with some guidelines to figure out how they can do it again without getting caught."

Wood, 23-year-old former NSA fund-raiser, went to Ramparts Magazine two months ago with the story confided to him by former NSA president Philip Sherbourne of CIA involvement